

August Conrad Frank

50 years - business in Philadelphia
Metallurgy - die striking

Born August 4th, 1866, Stuttgart, Bavaria, Germany.
Served apprenticeship in Stuttgart - Wilhelm Meyer.

After 18 yrs. of age became master journeyman (Medallist etc.)
Worked in Berlin, Maxhino

1892 - came to America at age of 26 to see the Chicago
World's Fair and became enthusiastic over great opportunities
here and decided America was the logical country in
which to start a business. Also had idea of
getting away from the political and economic turmoil
of Europe in those days.

He never returned to his birthplace until 25 years later,
despite a promise to his mother of returning after visit here.
(However, after he was ~~not~~ settled and married he sent
for his mother to come here to stay. However, after a visit
with the family she returned to Germany. After seeing to
it that the first child or children were christened by her
in the Catholic faith in which she had strictly brought
up her four children.)

1894 - Started his own business after working for a time for Nielsens ¹, Nielsens ²,
 at South East corner of 11th & Chestnut Sts., Phila; and
 manufacturing steel dies, as metallurgist, medalionist and a
 jewelry work.

As he reminisces in reminiscence he says he was far
 happier then, without having to attend to the complications
 of business as it is today.

From the small die making establishment he has enlarged
 his place of business until his name is well known in
 circles where that type of work is

and reputation of the highest in the circles where his type
 of work is known and highly regarded and sought after.
 and his opinions

A year after starting his business he met and married
 Martha Edelmann on October 14th, 1897

Business grew from one man shop year by year and his two
 sons who have always been with him since they
 left school now are partners in a large factory
 now only 2,700 square feet on Sansom Street through
 to Walnut Street.

1899 National Export Exposition Medal
awarded by Franklin Institute.

A great many of the original dies and hubs for
the insignia of the U. S. Army, Navy and
Air Corps were made by A. C. F. F. Five are
being made to day.

1900 Elihu Thruitt Hale Medal awarded by
Geographical Society of Philadelphia for eminent
geographical research.

11-29-1902 The Sesquicentennial of the initiation of
St. Washington's site of Kenosha.

Edgar A. Tamm was R.W. Grandmaster and
John R. Kinsey, Worshipful Master, Phila.
Lodge No. 444 F. and A.M. Phila., at that time
lack medal commenorate.

Combine life events with chronological historical events
and in that year while the lights were being
installed at, etc., he made the medal for
Banner, etc.

1909 Medal for presentation to Capt. R.E. Peary, U.S.N. by
the Geog. Soc. of Phila. for the discovery of
the North Pole.

1925 John Price Wetherill Medal awarded by F. I. Inst. Inc.
by Comm. of Pa.

1926 Award to Ralph Radcliffe, Chief Eng. of Del. River Bridge
to commemorate dedication of Bridge.

In recent years main part of business is making dies and molds for the plastic industry

Ever since starting His aim from the start was to bring his sons up in the business so his craftsmanship would continue. Knowledge of

Some of His ^{not} famous contributions to the making and designing of awards are:

The Perry Medal - for awarded by the National Geographic Society to commemorate discovery of the North Pole

Was Dr. W. Sartain and his son.

Elisha Hunt Medal - Dr. William Sartain and his son.

Danson - 1st man who built a house in Pidder. Danson Street was mud road with no lights.

Frank Caldwell & Co. for the 35 years and more up to present day.

Passengers afraid to come down them after dark.

Did work for Bailey, Banks & Biddle.

Historical Society of Penna.

13th & Spruce Sts. Phila. Home also of Phila.

May 15,

1897

Made 4" medal ^{in commemoration of Unveiling of} for Society of ^{later} (George Washington statue at Parkway lots renewed) Monument in Phila.

Medal commemorating flight of Amelia Earhart - now in Franklin museum.

Before electric lights they used gas light which was not bright enough to illuminate the work so they concentrated the beam of light by filling bowls with ^{fun globe}

water and standing them before the gas flame so that the light was magnified to better illuminate their bench work.

When he began his business he made only ^{steel} dies. Then customers wanted stampings.

Screw Press - Original patent ~~for~~

Struck coins & medals.

Made dies for Chinese Mint

2. Medal made in Paris said - Paris Mint
but was reproduced here - could not tell difference.

Very reluctant to accept publicity.

1932 Amelia Earhart Medal

Presented by Mayor Moore at Genibell Banquet
Oct. 5, 1932, ~~to~~ to her as first woman